

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A device for producing cigarette filters, comprising a conditioning section (AF) for conditioning supplied filter tows, a formatting section (F) for producing a wrapped filter strand, and a dosing device (4) integrated into [[a]] said conditioning section for dosing a softener, wherein the device further comprises a plurality of sensors that detect for detecting mass flow of filter tow material (M<sub>1</sub>), as well as a plurality of sensors for detecting that detect a sum of the mass flow from of filter tow material and softener compound (M<sub>2</sub>), and wherein the device comprises a measuring and regulation unit that is coupled with the sensors for measuring the mass flows (M<sub>1</sub> and M<sub>2</sub>) in such a manner that for measuring and regulating both the filter material and the softener compound can be measured and regulated independently, wherein said measuring and regulation unit comprises the sensors for measuring the mass flows (M<sub>1</sub>; M<sub>2</sub>) and a regulation unit, and wherein the sensors for measuring the mass flows (M<sub>1</sub>; M<sub>2</sub>) are coupled with said regulation unit.
2. (Currently Amended) The device pursuant to claim 1, wherein said sensors for detecting mass flow of filter tow material (M<sub>1</sub>) comprise a mass sensor (S<sub>m1</sub>) for detecting the length-related mass m<sub>1</sub> and a speed sensor (S<sub>v1</sub>) for detecting speed v<sub>1</sub> of the continuous filter strand, and wherein said sensors for detecting a sum of the mass flow of filter tow material and softener compound (M<sub>2</sub>) comprise a mass sensor (S<sub>m2</sub>) for detecting the length-related mass m<sub>2</sub> and a speed sensor (S<sub>v2</sub>) for detecting the speed v<sub>2</sub> of the continuous filter strand, and wherein said sensors for detecting mass flow of filter tow material (M<sub>1</sub>) are arranged in front of said dosing device and said sensors for detecting a sum of the mass flow of filter tow material and softener compound (M<sub>2</sub>) are arranged after said dosing device in relation to the device, when viewed in the moving direction of the filter strand, and wherein the mass flow (M<sub>1</sub>) in front of said dosing device results from the product m<sub>1</sub> x v<sub>1</sub> = M<sub>1</sub> and the mass flow (M<sub>2</sub>) after said dosing device results from the product m<sub>2</sub> x v<sub>2</sub> = M<sub>2</sub> in front of and after the dosing device (4), for the softener sensors (S<sub>m1</sub>; S<sub>m2</sub>) that detect the length-related mass m<sub>1</sub>, m<sub>2</sub> of the continuous filter strand and sensors (S<sub>v1</sub>; S<sub>v2</sub>) that detect the current

speeds  $v_1$  and  $v_2$  of the continuous filter strand are provided, wherein the respective mass flow results from the products of  $m_1 \times v_1 = M_1$  and  $m_2 \times v_2 = M_2$ .

3. (Currently Amended) The device pursuant to one of the claim 2, wherein the said speed sensor ( $S_{v1}$ ) that detects the for detecting the speed  $v_1$  and the said sensor ( $S_{m1}$ ) for detecting that detects the length-related mass  $m_1$  of the continuous filter strand are arranged directly adjacent.

4. (Currently Amended) The device pursuant to claim 2, wherein the said mass sensors ( $S_{m1}; S_{m2}$ ) for detecting that detect the length-related mass  $m_1$  and/or the and said speed sensor  $v_1$  ( $S_{v1}$ ) for detecting the speed  $v_1$  of the continuous filter strand are arranged before the entry of said into the conditioning section (AF).

5. (Currently Amended) The device pursuant to claim 2, wherein the said formatting section device (F) comprises a formatting line with a measuring unit for the formatting line speed and cutting device and that the wherein said mass sensor ( $S_{m2}$ ) for detecting the length-related mass  $m_2$ , when viewed in the moving direction of the filter strand, is arranged directly in front of the said cutting device in relation to the moving direction of the filter strand, and wherein that as said speed sensor ( $S_{v2}$ ) for detecting the speed  $v_2$  of the continuous filter strand is said the measuring unit for the formatting line speed is used.

6. (Currently Amended) The device pursuant to claim 2, wherein the said speed sensors ( $S_{v1}; S_{v2}$ ) for detecting the speed  $v_1$  and  $v_2$  of the continuous filter strand that detect the current speeds  $v_1$  and  $v_2$  of the continuous filter strand are optical speed sensors.

7. (Currently Amended) The device pursuant to claim 2, wherein at least one of said mass sensors as the sensor ( $S_{m1}$ -and/or, $S_{m2}$ ) for detecting that detects the length-related mass  $m_1$  and/or  $m_2$  of the continuous filter strand[[,]] is a sensor is selected that is suited to suitable for determining determine apart from the length-related masses also the moisture content of the filter strand the current product to be measured apart from the length-related mass  $m_1$  and/or  $m_2$ .

8. (Currently Presented) The device pursuant to claim 2, wherein at least one of said mass sensors ( $S_{m1}$ ;  $S_{m2}$ ) for detecting the length-related mass  $m_1$  and/or  $m_2$  of the continuous filter strand the sensor ( $S_{m1}$  and/or  $S_{m2}$ ) is a microwave sensor.
9. (Currently Amended) The device pursuant to claim 8, wherein the said microwave sensor is a split resonator.
10. (Currently Amended) The device pursuant to claim 8, wherein the said microwave sensor comprises a closed, tube-shaped resonator that is perforated with a plastic probe guide for guiding the continuous filter strand, wherein said plastic probe guide comprises a perforation of said closed, tube-shaped resonator, whereby the sensitivity of the resonator is maximized.
11. (Currently Amended) The device pursuant to claim 8, wherein the said microwave sensor is designed as a planar sensor.
12. (Currently amended) The device pursuant to claim 8, wherein the said microwave sensor is designed as a profile sensor. The device
13. (Currently Amended) The device pursuant to claim 2, wherein at least one of said mass sensors ( $S_{m1}$ ;  $S_{m2}$ ) for detecting the length-related mass  $m_1$  and/or  $m_2$  of the continuous filter strand the sensor ( $S_{m1}$  and/or  $S_{m2}$ ) that detects the length-related mass  $m_1$  and/or  $m_2$  of the continuous filter strand is comprises a  $\beta$ -radiation source as well as and a  $\beta$ -radiation detector.
14. (Currently Amended) The device pursuant to claim 1, wherein said sensors for detecting mass flow of filter tow material ( $M_1$ ) are comprised of bale scales are used as a sensor for determining the mass flow  $M_4$ .

15. (Currently Amended) The device pursuant to claim 1, wherein said device—comprises—a regulation unit for the automatic regulation of the filter material and softener mass, which is coupled at its output both to the said conditioning section (AF) and the to said dosing section device (4) for the automatic regulation of the filter material and the softener mass.